

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.471]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Corrections Female Department Demolition Photograph Collection

Abstract: Digital scans of photographs documenting the demolition of Female Department No. 1 in Jefferson City in 2003. The site would become the Department of Natural Resources's Lewis & Clark Green Building.

Extent: 31 images

Physical Description: JPG

Location: Missouri State Archives; Vault

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: None

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [date]; *Corrections Female Department Demolition Photograph Collection*, Record Group 998.471; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift; Accession #2017-0112

Processing Information: Finding aid completed by EW on 04/30/2018. Updated by EW on 05/17/2019 and 03/25/2021.

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Up until January 1926, female prisoners of the state were kept in the administration building of the Missouri State Penitentiary under less than desirable conditions. Notable federal inmates stayed in that building as well, including Emma Goldman and Kate Richards O'Hare. O'Hare and Goldman advocated for better conditions during their time there, and their appeals were heard nationwide.

On January 4, 1926, 60 female prisoners were moved from the Missouri State Penitentiary to a renovated mansion formerly owned by Gen. James Minor on a site called Minor's Hill. This would serve as the women's prison for the next few years. The site was officially called Female Department Farm No. 1, and consisted of 38 acres. The women raised cattle, pigs, and chickens and farmed vegetables.

Fairly quickly, the mansion became unsuitable for the women, and in early 1936 the St. Louis architectural firm of Klipstein and Rathmann designed a new three-story brick prison building. The building was completed in 1937, but not occupied until late 1938 because of utility issues. This brick structure is the subject of this photograph collection.

The brick women's prison was abandoned in February 1960 in favor of the large prison complex in Tipton, Missouri. A few years later – in late 1964 – the building was ready to receive male inmates who were about to be released on parole, thus serving as a sort-of halfway house. It also served as surplus storage for the Department of Education, and these soon-to-be parolees helped with surplus inventories.

This lasted roughly ten years and by 1976 the brick structure was repurposed again. This time it would serve as a training site for new Corrections officers.

The building was demolished between January 22 and March 14, 2003 by Schneiders Construction Co., Inc. After the site was cleared, the new eco-friendly "Green Building" was built for the Department of Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

MS297 Mark Schreiber Collection
RG114 Department of Corrections
RG213 Missouri State Penitentiary
RG550 General Assembly (see annual reports in the appendices)

Additional External Resources

Lewis & Clark Green Building Study: <https://dnr.mo.gov/greenbldg/index.html>.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS, 2002-2003

Arrangement: Original order maintained

Scope and Content

This collection contains 31 images of the demolition of the three-story prison on the grounds of Female Department Farm No. 1, owned by the Missouri Department of Corrections. All images are JPGs and are low-resolution scans of original prints retained by the donor. Photographer was the donor, Bob Aberly of Jefferson City. Demolition took place between January and March 2003. Images 1-9 seem to have been taken the summer before.

All images are available on Manuscript DVD #7 in Reference.

Container List

| Image Name | Description |
|---------------|--|
| MS471_001.jpg | View of the original stone entry pillar and plaque reading, "FEMALE-DEPT FARM-NO.1 1932." |
| MS471_002.jpg | Dirt road leading to the old women's prison on Minor's Hill. A fenced-in industrial building is on the left, trees on the right along with the entrance pillar to Female Department Farm No. 1. |
| MS471_003.jpg | Dirt road leading from the old women's prison on Minor's Hill back to town. Trees on the left and on the right in the distance is an industrial-looking site. |
| MS471_004.jpg | Image shows an abandoned stone building on Minor's Hill, which likely used to be part of either Minor's mansion or the women's prison. The building is covered with ivy. |
| MS471_005.jpg | Partial view of the three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill. Shows a mowed lawn and a low iron fence rail. |
| MS471_006.jpg | Image shows the three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill just before it is torn down. Two cars are parked in the gravel lot. |
| MS471_007.jpg | View of the three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill just before it is torn down. A few trucks and a car are parked in the gravel lot out front. There is a white water tower at the side of the prison. |
| MS471_008.jpg | View of the old three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill just before it is torn down. A few cars and a truck are in the gravel lot. |
| MS471_009.jpg | Image shows a small boarded-up white brick building on Minor's Hill, which likely used to be part of either Minor's mansion or the women's prison. Some graffiti birds are painted on the boards that cover up the windows, and a few vines grow up the front of the building. |
| MS471_010.jpg | View looking up a snow-covered hill toward the water tower on Minor's Hill. An abandoned stone building is on the left. Out of view behind the water tower would be the old women's prison. |
| MS471_011.jpg | Demolition of the old three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill has begun. The interior of the building is exposed. |
| MS471_012.jpg | Image shows rubble of one of the out buildings associated with the women's prison. |
| MS471_013.jpg | Rubble covers the ground outside the old brick women's prison on Minor's Hill, which is being demolished to make room for the Department of Natural Resource's Green Building. |

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| MS471_014.jpg | The old three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill is being demolished. Image shows an excavator, the building, and a water tower. |
| MS471_015.jpg | The old three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill is being demolished. Image shows a Dumpster, the building, an excavator, and port-a-potty. |
| MS471_016.jpg | The old three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill is being demolished. Image shows the building and an excavator. |
| MS471_017.jpg | The old three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill is being demolished. Image shows a collapsed roof and that at least one side of the building has been removed. |
| MS471_018.jpg | Image shows the early stages of demolition of the old women's prison on Minor's Hill. |
| MS471_019.jpg | The old three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill is being demolished. Image shows a Dumpster, the building, a port-a-potty, and a truck. |
| MS471_020.jpg | The old three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill is being demolished. Image shows the building, an excavator, and a bulldozer. |
| MS471_021.jpg | The old three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill is being demolished. Image shows an excavator parked at the corner of the building. There is a man standing on the building. |
| MS471_022.jpg | The old three-story brick women's prison on Minor's Hill is being demolished. Image shows a collapsed roof and that at least one side of the building has been removed. |
| MS471_023.jpg | Image shows a concrete pillar or post on its side on the ground. The pillar is decorated with a drawing of a woman in a cocktail dress. Above the drawing are the words, "Sam Mance I did 4 years Day for Day." Another image of this pillar is in the Mark Schreiber Collection at the Archives. From that image, it is clear that the date "Feb 3 1939," and the number "25" are written there as well. The artist turns out to be Samuel Mance, Jr. of St. Louis, inmate no. 02996. He was in the MSP for assault from 06/15/1961 to 11/17/1965. In 1964, this building – formerly the segregation unit of the Women's Prison – began use as a pre-release center for male MSP inmates. It's likely that Sam was sent here a few months before his release. The 1939 date might be his date of birth and 25 his age. According to other records, though, his year of birth is more likely 1936. |
| MS471_024.jpg | Two excavators and a small Bobcat bulldozer are working to clear rubble from a demolished building on Minor's Hill. |
| MS471_025.jpg | An excavator and large drill are at work clearing rubble from the demolished women's prison on Minor's Hill. |
| MS471_026.jpg | An excavator dumps a load of rubble into a crushing machine. |
| MS471_027.jpg | The ground here is covered with window frames and other debris from the demolished buildings on the site of the old women's prison on Minor's Hill. |
| MS471_028.jpg | Two excavators are at work clearing rubble on the site of the old women's prison on Minor's Hill. |
| MS471_029.jpg | An excavator is at work clearing rubble on the site of the old women's prison on Minor's Hill. |
| MS471_030.jpg | A construction worker picks through a pile of dirt and rocks on the site of the old women's prison on Minor's Hill. Behind him some kind of a crusher is at work. |
| MS471_031.jpg | A crusher takes debris and dirt and grinds it down, pouring it off the end of a conveyor belt onto a large pile. |